

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 20 with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] Referring to **FIG. 3**, in another embodiment of needle 10, distal end 50 comprises opposing first extension 130 and second extension 140 that are angled towards each other and whose tips 135 and 136 partially define distal opening 60. **FIG. 4** depicts the projected area A_1 of distal opening 60, which is smaller than a cross-sectional area of a section of shaft 20 proximal to distal end 50 according to this aspect of the present invention. Referring to **FIG. 5**, in an alternative embodiment, second extension 140 is longer than first extension 130 in a direction parallel to longitudinal axis X of shaft 20. Preferably tips 135 and 136 of first and second extensions 130 and 140 are beveled, as illustrated in **FIGs. 5** and **6**. Further, as illustrated in **FIGs. 5** and **6**, first and second extensions 130 and 140 may mutually define at least one opening 150, which is offset from the longitudinal axis of shaft 20. Referring to **FIG. 6**, which is an end view of needle 10 illustrated in **FIG. 5**, preferably, first and second extensions 130 and 140 mutually define a pair of openings 150a and 150b that are each offset from longitudinal axis X. Although openings 150a and 150b are illustrated as being tear-drop shaped, such openings may have any shape. Referring to **FIG. 7**, in an alternative embodiment, distal end 50 does not include first and second extensions defining openings offset from axis X, but rather simply tapers towards distal opening 60. The degree in which distal end tapers can be any degree such that the projection area of distal opening 60 is smaller than a cross-sectional area of a section of shaft 20 proximal to distal end 50. For example, angle α and/or angle β , as indicated in **FIGs. 5** and **7**, may be from about 14° to about 30°.